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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/498,515	02/04/2000	Howard G. Page	1285	8911
28004 SPRINT 6391 SPRINT PARKWAY KSOPHT0101-Z2100 OVERLAND PARK, KS 66251-2100	7590 02/22/2010			
			EXAMINER	
			RETTA, YEHDEGA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3622	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			02/22/2010 PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/498,515

Applicant(s)

PAGE ET AL.

Examiner

Yehdega Retta

Art Unit

3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 17, 18, 20 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 17, 18, 20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-85/86)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination filed October 14, 2008. Applicant amended claims 1 and 12. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 17, 18, 20 and 21 are pending.

A new reference located by the examiner prompted the new ground of rejection, therefore the decision by the panel from the pre-appeal conference has been withdrawn. The finality of the last Office action is also withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 17, 18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swix et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,718,551, in view of Farmer (US 5,822,018), in view of Zigmond et al. (US 6,698,020) in view of "NDS: NDS' XTV(TM) time shifting technology empowers the viewer and the broadcaster", M2 Presswire, Sep 10, 1999, (hereinafter XTV(TM)) and further in view of Eyer et al. (US 6,588,015).

Regarding claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 21, Swix teaches selecting video advertising (e.g. pickup trucks) that has a subject matter relation to the selected video content (e.g. western movies) requested by the target viewer (see col. 9 line 33 to col. 10 line 34); transferring the selected video content to the a target viewer device over a first transport system and transferring

the selected video advertising to the target viewer device over a second transport system, wherein the first transport system uses greater bandwidth for video transfer than the second transport system (see col. 12 line 21 to col. 13 line 23). Swix teaches delivering bit map or video advertisements and storing the advertisement in the viewer device and retrieving the advertisement for insertion in an advertisement slots (see col. 11 line 34 to col. 12 line 60). Swix teaches q-tone signal indicating the beginning of an advertisement insertion. *Farmer teaches the program material (video and audio) transmitted via transmitting channel (22) and transmitting the cue tones (signals for insertion point) via channel 23 (see fig. 1, col. 1 lines 37-51, col. 4 lines 25-48, col. 6 lines 49-65, col. 12 lines 51-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to transmit the signal for the insertion point over the second channel which is different from the first channel, in order for a local program to control the insertion point of the local advertisements.* Swix teaches the insertion of advertisement before and after the presentation of a video content, but failed to explicitly teach interrupting the transferring of the video content in the video stream at the insertion point; retrieving the selected video advertising from the video storage of the target viewer device; inserting the selected video advertising into the video stream; resuming the transferring of the selected video content in the video stream at the insertion point, it is taught in Zigmond (see fig. 3-6, col. 4 lines 15-52, col. 6 lines 13-29, col. 7 lines 1-25 and col. 17 lines 10-32). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to store the advertisement of Swix locally and to interrupt the video and display the select advertisement and upon termination of the advertisement to resume the transfer of the video content as in Zigmond in order to individually target the viewer or (household-by-household) as taught in Zigmond (see

col. 7 lines 30-67). Swix does not teach disabling fast-forward capability when the selected video advertising is displayed. XTV(TM) teaches a set-top-box which provides advertisers with the ability to totally prevent views from skipping ads. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to disable the ability of fast-forward or skip forward in order to force the subscriber to view the commercials (see page 1). STV(TM) does not explicitly indicate how ads are skipped. Eyer teaches that it is possible to force subscriber to listen to certain commercials by disabling the ability to FAST FORWARD or SKIP FORWARD (see col. 7 line 50 to col. 8 line 12 and col. 16 lines 37-54). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to disable the fast-forward or skip forward function of the set-top box of Swix, as taught in Eyer, to provide the advantage of preventing ad skipping function, as taught in STV(TM).

Regarding claim 5, Swix teaches selecting the video ad based on a viewer profile for the target viewer (see col. 7 line 31 to col. 8 line 2, col. 8 line 66 to col. 9 line 44)

Regarding claims 10 and 20, Swix does not explicitly teach re-displaying the selected video advertisements after rewinding the video content. It would have been obvious for Swix to re-display the same advertising since the advertisement selected is cached at the client set-top box and is inserted into the video stream, locally at a client side, and presented to the viewer.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 17, 18, 20 and 21 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Safadi (US 6,487,721) teaches digital cue command replacing analog cue tone to signal the start and end of a commercial insertion period.

Farmer (US 5,907,366) teaches when a controller receives the transfer-to-ad cuctone signal, it commands switching equipment to switch the subscriber system fro the incoming national network program video and audio signals to the output of the local video tape player for the duration of the advertisement.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yehdega Retta whose telephone number is (571) 272-6723. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber can be reached on (571) 272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

YR

/Yehdega Retta/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3622